

BY MICHELLE DOTY, CHAIRPERSON



"Working to Improve Special Education Services in Idaho"

## **IDAHO SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL**

Idaho State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0027
Phone: (208) 332-6925 TDD: (800) 377-3529

June 29, 2004

Dr. Marilyn Howard State Superintendent of Public Instruction Idaho Department of Education P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0027

Dear Dr. Howard:

On behalf of the Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel, I am pleased to submit a copy of the 2003-2004 Annual Report. The attached report will provide you with insight into the panel activities for this past year and a list of reccommendations to be used as a tool to guide and assist the Department in the supervision of Special Education services in Idaho.

It has been an honor to serve in a leadership role with the Panel and to have worked in collaboration with the Bureau of Special Education this year. On behalf of the Panel, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to you and Dr. Jana Jones for your guidance and perserverence in supporting Idaho's education system. I would also like to send a special thank you to Russ Hammond and Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt for their dedication and support of Panel activities. The Panel would also like to extend a thank you to all the department personnel who provided or presented valuable information to assist in the formulation of our final recommendations this year.

The Panel was pleased to take an active role this year in such activities as providing input on proposed rules at the State Board of Education's public hearings and by writing a letter of support to the Bureau for the proposed State Improvement Grant (SIG). It has been a year of change for the Panel following the completion of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) visit. With the support of a facilitator, the Panel was able to identify a vision and focused goals at the beginning of the academic year. This allowed the Panel to remain focused and dedicated to the support and improvement of Idaho's educational sysytem.

The Panel's role is clearly mandated by IDEA, however, the panel invites your input on how it can better offer support and guidance to the Idaho State Department of Education as well as how you would like the Panel to advocate for the needs of Idaho's students with disabilities.

Again, it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with the members of the Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel.

Sincerely,

Michelle Doty Chairperson

# Special Education Advisory Panel 2003-2004 Membership

Michelle Doty -- Chairperson, Parent, Center on Disabilities and Human Development Beverly Benge -- Vice Chairperson, Higher Education Representative, LCSC Greg Bailey -- School Administrator

John Burns – Parent

Therese Clifford -- Dual Exceptionality Parent

Ross Edmunds -- FACS, Department of Health & Welfare

Susan Haffner - Gifted and Talented Parent and General Education Teacher

Varina Hallock – Parent and Special Education Teacher

Kim Hegg-James, Parent

Barbara Housley, Parent

Julie Johnson, Department of Corrections

Cindy Lijewski -- Transition Services at The Boise Arc

JoAnn Lopez-Miller – Parent

Deborah Lund -- Special Education Director

Steven McNeel -- General Education Teacher

Catherine Pierce – Parent and General Education Teacher

Glenda Rohrbach – Department of Juvenile Corrections

Susan Seaman -- Charter School Representative

Charlotte Silva – Higher Education Representative, BSU

Mary Stewart – Parent

Robbie Storla – Consumer

Linda Sundstrom – Parent

Steven Thomas – Parent

Russ Hammond – Idaho State Department of Education Representative

Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt – Idaho State Department of Education Support Personnel for SEAP

### **Panel Activities**

The Panel members worked diligently toward a set of focused goals established at the onset of the year. It was a pleasure to have Laurel York-O'Dell as the facilitator of our first meeting to facilitate the structure of the Panel and the direction it would take throughout the year. The Panel took an active role in several activities this year including providing input at public hearings on the proposed rules regarding uniformity, accountability (graduation by exiting exam) and medical assistance. A copy of the Panel's recommendations on Uniformity is attached to this report. The Panel also wrote in support of the Proposed State Improvement Grant and a letter of support for the Western Regional Resource Center (WRRC) In addition to the many activities of the Panel, members were kept up to date on the Bureau's activities as well as weekly updates during the legislative session. This allowed the members of the Panel to make informed decisions at our meetings.

The following is a summary of activities of the Panel, a list of recommendations and a copy of the Action Plan that guided our vision and direction for the year.

#### **Fall 2003**

- Beverly Benge oriented the new Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) members.
- Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt got the website updated and usable. You can now access all minutes for the year, the annual report, guidelines, and an application for membership.
- Laurel York-O'Dell facilitated the fall meeting. This helped to focus the Panel, identify priorities and help the Panel remain on task throughout the year.
- The SEAP participated in the State Board of Education (SBOE) public hearings concerning assessments, certification, high school graduation requirements and other issues. SEAP members gave testimony both in person and through the submission of formal position statements.
- The SEAP selected speakers and identified information needed to address priorities.
- The SEAP developed an Action Plan. This helped follow through with tasks/actions.
- The SDE responded to SEAP recommendations from the 2002-2003 Annual Report.
- The following material was disseminated to the Panel: SDE Activities Related to SEAP Annual Report for 2002-2003; Idaho Special Education Disputes 02/15/03 to 09/24/03; Robert's Rules of Order, A Primer for Special Education Advisory Panel Members and SEA Staff; Special Education/Early Intervention Improvement Plan, Idaho State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, Progress Report July 2003; Serving Exceptional Children, A Report to the Idaho Legislature January 2003; Department of Health and Welfare, Rules Governing the Medical Assistance Program, Docket NO 16-0309-0310, Temporary and Proposed Rulemaking; IDAPA 08 Idaho State Board of Education, 08.02.03 Rules Governing Thoroughness; The Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc. brochure; and Spud Tech Notes, September 2003, Volume 8, Issue 1.

### Winter 2004

- Russ Hammond, State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, presented to the Panel on the SIG Grant, the upcoming new SIG Grant, Teacher Retention, Caseloads and the percentage of SPED students.
- Tom Farley, Idaho State Department of Education, and Carissa Miller, Idaho State Board of Education, gave the Panel a presentation on Accountability, Students with Special Needs, and the ISAT.
- Roger Widner, ISIMS Project Manager, and Gale Hogan, ISIMS Business Process and Policy, from the Idaho Student Information Management System (ISIMS) presented to the Panel on ISIMS.
- Phyllis Meinhardt informed the Panel of all of the changes and updates at Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL).
- Jean Taylor, State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, presented to the Panel on the State Annual Performance Report.
- Ross Edmunds, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, presented on the Children's Mental Health System in Idaho and the development of a "System of Care".
- Charlie Silva, Boise State University, presented on the status of Alternative Pathways.
- Robin Nettinga, Director of Public Policy for the IEA (Idaho Education Association), presented on what is happening at the Legislature 2004 sessions.
- The SEAP visited the State Legislature –Joint Legislative Committees on Education.
- The Action Plan was updated.
- Michelle Doty contacted Allison Westfall of the Idaho State Department of Education to advocate for a Press Release on "What is SEAP?"
- The following material was disseminated to the Panel: Protocol for Providing School-Based Medicaid Reimbursable Services; Private Service Providers Working with Students in Public Schools; Activities Timelines for the State Improvement Grant, updated November 2003; Idaho Administrative Code, Health and Welfare, Division of Medicaid, IDAPA 16.03.09 Rules Governing the Medical Assistance Program; Gifted and Talented Program in Idaho by Val Schorzman; and the Children's Mental Health Services, A Parent's Guide.

### Spring 2004

- The SEAP elected a new Vice Chairperson for the 2004-2005 year. Mary Stewart, parent representative, was elected.
- The SEAP committees and sub-committees created recommendations for the 2003-2004 Annual Report to SDE.
- Russ Hammond updated SEAP on the State Improvement Grant (SIG), the new Annual Performance Report, Alternate Pathways, and Graduation Guidelines.
- Val Schorzman met with the G/T and Mental Health Sub-committees.

- The Legislative Committee sent a letter to IPUL and SDE to distribute the "Idaho Students with Disabilities Graduation Decision Guidance, March 2004" document to Education stake holders including but not limited to Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL), Idaho Education Association (IEA) representatives, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), Idaho School Board Association (ISBA) for more wide-spread local distribution in order to encourage involvement in district debate and policy adoption. SDE is encouraged to present joint training with IPUL.
- Meeting dates were set for the 2004-2005 year.
- The following material was disseminated to the Panel: Action Plan, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004; Special Education Standards Drafts and Where to Find Them; New State Improvement Grant Abstract; Parents We Need You! Flyer; Idaho Students with Disabilities Graduation Decision Guidance, March 1, 2004; Idaho Administrative Code, State Board of Education, IDAPA 08.02.02, Rules Governing Uniformity; Review Team Special Education Standards-Rubrics; and Part B Annual Performance Report, Status of Program Performance.

### **Annual Recommendations**

- 1. Request the legislature to increase funding for remediation for students not passing state mandated tests.
- 2. Request the legislature to re-instate and increase funding for Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and Gifted/Talented (G/T).
- 3. Request the legislature to establish a tuition reimbursement program for teacher education candidates. This will ensure highly qualified teachers with the ability to meet the needs of all students in an inclusive setting.
- 4. Enhance recruitment of individuals (high school seniors, paraprofessionals, therapists, teachers, and others) into the field of Special Education. Provide funding resources and incentives for these individuals.
- 5. Establish caseload limits for Special Education teachers that meet national averages. This is to insure all students' w/disabilities receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and increase the retention of qualified Special Education personnel.
- 6. Alternative Certification
  - ★ Clarify emergency certification procedures for related service personnel (such as School Psychologists, counselors and Speech/Language Pathologists) after 2006 to insure quality services are maintained for student's w/disabilities.
  - \* Address the widening gap between state requirements for individuals seeking traditional certification versus alternative certification.
- 7. Develop guidelines to monitor alternative pathway programs to maintain the quality of teacher preparation programs.
- 8. Collaborate with an agency/person (such as IPUL) to develop a training package for parents, schools, and providers regarding Medicaid issues as they relate to school-based and non-school-based services, including the following:
  - \* Role of the parent as a consumer of services;
  - \* Role and responsibilities of Service Coordinators;
  - \* Qualifications of providers;
  - \* Explanation of services and terminology, such as IBI (Intensive Behavior Intervention), PSR (Psychosocial Rehabilitation), and DT (Developmental Therapy);
  - \* Explanation of how students qualify for Medicaid services;
  - \* Evaluation of students for services and the implications; and
  - ★ Implications for choosing non-school-based Medicaid services delivered during the school day.
- 9. Provide SDE oversight for Medicaid Services delivered during the school day (not on a school campus or by a state approved contracting agency) by:
  - ★ Developing policies and procedures for ensuring quality;
  - \* Appointing a designated position (person) to perform the oversight; and
  - \* Developing procedures for conflict resolution and methods to address concerns.
- 10. Develop a sample policy for school districts to consider regarding the provision of services to students by private providers on or off a school campus during the school day including:
  - **★** Contracting issues;
  - ★ Liability issues;
  - ★ Medicaid billing conflicts;
  - ★ Personnel issues;

- ★ Collaboration of services;
- ★ Mental health issues/services;
- ★ Conflict resolution; and
- ★ Orientation and training on school policies and practices.
- 11. Promote early screening in the areas of mental health and gifted/talented. All students will be screened on a bi-annual schedule beginning with school enrollment.
- 12. Establish links to training resources on the Training Clearinghouse for all teachers/staff concerning mental health issues, G/T issues, Dual Exceptionalities, and misdiagnosis issues.
- 13. Develop statewide counseling and guidance policies and procedures for all gifted learners at elementary, middle and high school levels.

# **Action Plan**

# May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004

### New tasks are in the color of brick.

What	Who	By when	Discussion
Develop memo for friendly organizations, including hearing date and locations	Sue Haffner and Steve McNeel	September 29, 2003	COMPLETED
Contact Allison Westfall for Press release on October 10 about SEAP –who we are, what we do, priorities we set for the year	Michelle Doty	September 29, 2003	Michelle is still working with Allison on the Press Release. The goal is to have it completed before the January 22-23, 2003 SEAP Meeting.
E-mail a memo to IPUL, IEA, IASA, IASEA, IFFCMH, developed by Sue Haffner and Steve McNeel, with copy to entire SEAP.	Bonnie Steiner- Leavitt	October 10, 2003	COMPLETED
Invite Carissa Miller (OSBE) and Tom Farley (SDE) to attend January 2004 SEAP meeting to address issues related to accountability, students with special needs, ISAT	Glenda Rohrbach	October 15, 2003	COMPLETED
E-mail dates of State Board meetings to entire SEAP.	Glenda Rohrbach	October 15, 2003	COMPLETED
Attend hearings October 16, 2003.	TBD	October 16, 2003	COMPLETED
E-mail conference to determine what actions is necessary for State Board meeting.	Legislative committee-initiated by Steve McNeel and Sue Haffner	After results of October 16, 2003 hearings are known.	COMPLETED
Call IPUL and Consortium for Idaho Disabilities (CID) to get their concerns on Medicaid rule changes and share results with Deborah Lund, Cindy Lijewski and Barbara Housley.	Kim Hegg-James	October 3, 2003	COMPLETED
Invite Val Shorzman to present at the January 2003 SEAP Meeting on the status of the GT program in ID and meet with the GT Subcommittee.	Russ Hammond	January 22, 2003	COMPLETED
Draft letter to DHW about SEAP's position regarding Medicaid rule changes, email to entire SEAP for a vote.	Kim Hegg-James	October 10, 2003	COMPLETED

What	Who	By when	Discussion
Respond to Kim's e-mail	Entire SEAP	October 15, 2003	COMPLETED
with comments and vote			
for approval of draft letter.			
Report to Legislative	Cindy Lijewski	January 23, 2003	COMPLETED
committee about Medicaid			
pilot program for adults			
regarding case			
management program.			
Develop survey, distribute	SDE-Russ	January 22, 2003	Russ noted that Medicaid
and collect results on		Meeting	completed a survey on this.
outside agencies providing			Bonnie will put the results in
services in schools.			the meeting packets.
			COMPLETED
It is requested that SDE	Val Schorzman	January 22, 2003	Russ talked to Val about this
provide information on		Meeting	and it will be included in her
student expenditures by			presentation.
state and local categories.			COMPLETED
Members of G/T Sub-			Michelle will e-mail and try to
committee will ask to			find out the status of this task.
attend Val's task force			
meeting.			
Invite the new person	Michelle Doty	January 22, 2004	The Executive Board has
representing Dual			accepted a new member,
Exceptionalities to become			Therese Clifford, who is a Dual
a member of the GT			Exceptionality parent.
Subcommittee.			COMPLETED
Forward the following			Bonnie e-mailed Val asking for
questions to Dr. Val			her response to these
Schorzman to facilitate			questions. Bonnie will add the
G/T Sub-committee			response to the packet for the
actions.			January 2004 SEAP Meeting.
1.Where do we stand on			COMPLETED
the recommendations of			
the survey done by			
William and Mary?			
2.Has the task force met?			
If not, could our members			
be included in the meeting			
and/or could we have a			
copy of the recommendations?			
3.Is there a method of			
tracking dual			
exceptionalities?			
4.Why aren't some			
districts reporting G/T			
children and utilizing			
funds for teacher training?			
Presentation to SEAP of the	Ross Edmunds	January 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2003	COMPLETED
Mental Health system and		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
the development of a			
system of care.			

What	Who	By when	Discussion
Distribute parent			Michelle will e-mail for the
guides to Mental			status of this task.
Health services, to all			
school districts,			COMPLETED
teachers, principles			
and counselors.			
Recommend that			Michelle will e-mail for the
Health classes include			status of this task.
a Mental Health			
component.			
Create a packet of	Russ Hammond		COMPLETED
data from the Special			
Education Teacher			
Retention Workgroup.			
Gather information on	Cindy Lijewski	January 22, 2004	COMPLETED
qualifications/Training			
of service coordinators			
(ESCs).			
Have Patty Toney do a	Russ/Charlie	February 15, 2004	COMPLETED
review of Special	rtuss, sriariis	1 051 daily 107 200 1	
Education Teacher			
Standards			
Procure information on		April 21, 2004	COMPLETED
emergency		710111 217, 2004	33 22.23
certification for			
Related Services.			
Possibly have Mike			
Stefanic present.			
Clarification from SDE	Russ	April 21, 2004	COMPLETED
about the	Nuss	April 21, 2004	CONFECTED
implementation of the			
new certification rules			
(NCLB/PSC/SBOE)	Sue and Steve	April 21 2004	+
Contact other special	Sue and Steve	April 21, 2004	
needs student groups			
on their advocacy			
programs (IEA, IPUL,			
etc.)	Duran	A	Not Completed
Develop a	Russ	April 21, 2004	Not Completed
diagram/report of all			
privates providers,			
types, how they			
function, how they are			
licensed and approved			
by the State and what			
and how they may			
provide services to			
school-age children.			

What	Who	By When	Discussion
Contact Mary Wells and get the following information "Targeted" Service Coordinator issues (1) What is the School Coordinator's role as a liaison between home and school, (2) who has oversight or developed guidelines for the role of Service Coordinators for schools, (3) what do we do when there is a problem between the Service Coordinator and the school, and who has oversight if a Service Coordinator engages in unethical practices?	Russ	April 21, 2004	Not Completed
Seek a report for Committee identifying proficiency levels and accommodations for graduating.	Sue	April 10, 2004	COMPLETED
Have Val Schorzman present or have a teleconference	Cathy Pierce	April 1, 2004	Not Completed Val presented to the G/T and Mental Health Committees.
Have Val inform G/T Sub-committee members of G/T Task Force Meetings.	Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt	Before April 21, 2004	COMPLETED
Send a letter to Dr. Jana Jones and Evelyn Mason (IPUL) advocating them working together to disseminate the "Idaho Students with Disabilities Graduation Decision Guidance, March 1, 2004"	Sue Haffner-Draft Letter  Bonnie will develop letter, send out to Executive  Committee for acceptance and then send to Jana and Evelyn.	June 1, 2004	Update-Sue has drafted and Bonnie has developed and sent out to Executive Committee. COMPLETED

To: Idaho State Board of Education

From: Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel

After careful consideration and deliberation, the Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel supports the following additions/changes regarding the proposed rule changes for Rules Governing Uniformity.

# 44. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION – CONTENT SPECIALIST (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006).

- 02. Alternative Route Preparation Program.
  - a. A consortium comprised of a designee from the college/university to be attended, and a representative from the school district, and the candidate shall determine preparation needed to meet the Idaho Standards for Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel. This preparation must include mentoring and a minimum of 1 classroom observation per month until certified.

This recommendation is based on acknowledgement of the strength of content knowledge and the weakness of background regarding teaching methodology and classroom management for this group of candidates.

#### 45. PARA-EDUCATOR TO TEACHER (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006)

- 01. Initial Qualifications. Prior to application: the candidate must hold an AA/AAS degree or 32 semester credit hours, meet state para-educator standards, and be employed as a para-educator. Districts shall identify potential candidates with appropriate dispositions for teaching, and continue to employ candidates as paraeducators. District/school provides orientation for candidate as deemed appropriate.
- 02. Alternative Route Preparation Program. Candidate will work toward completion of the alternate route preparation program through a participating college/university and the employing school district. Candidate must complete a minimum of 24 semester credit hours beyond the AA/AAS degree or 48 semester credit hours beyond the initial 32 hours to be eligible for alternative authorization as a classroom teacher. The alternative route preparation program must be completed within six calendar years from the date of admission to the program.

This recommendation is based on acknowledgement of the strength of teaching methodology and the potential weakness of content knowledge and whole classroom management for this group of candidates.



#### STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
ROISE

DR. MARILYN HOWARD

(208) 332-6811 FAX (208) 334-2228

September 3, 2004

Michelle Doty, Chair Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel c/o Bureau of Special Education

Dear Ms. Doty:

Thank you for sending me the 2003-04 annual report of the Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel. It has obviously been a busy year, and one that produced some weighty recommendations. We have not yet completed work on the Fiscal Year 2006 budget request for public school support, but I can report that I have already decided to include a request to restore the Least Restrictive Environment training funds that we benefited from in the past. It would help if the advisory panel members would talk to their legislators about the need to support this request.

As part of your work for the coming year, I would appreciate any comments or observations you and your colleagues have regarding the effect of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* on special education: on students, on teachers, and on advocates. Some national attention is being devoted to this issue, but I am more interested in what you and the other members sense about what is happening—or not happening—in Idaho.

Please convey to the other advisory panel members my appreciation for another year of hard and thoughtful work. I look forward to hearing from you next year, or any time before then if you think it is appropriate.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Howard

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

MH:lrh